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(signature of person mailing paper or fee)

Timothy M. Hubalik

(typed name of person mailing paper or fee)

Commissioner for Patents  
Mail Stop: NEW APPLICATION  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

## **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT A**

The above referenced application, enclosed herewith, is filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) as a continuing (divisional) application prior to issuance of parent application Serial No. 09/837,849. Prior to examination of this application or charging of claims fees, please amend the application as requested herein below.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this correspondence.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3.

**Remarks begin on page 4.**